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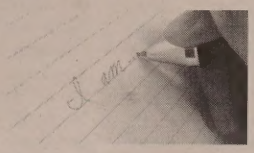
The Musket

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1969

Senior Destinations
After four years, members of the Class of 2014 are ready to forge their own paths. See where to find them next year!
[turn to pages 2 & 3]



Write Your Own Story
It's easy to get swept up in the college craze, but remember that college is really only one chapter of your life story.
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Volume LIV Issue VI— May 22, 2014

Humans of LHS Facebook page celebrates diverse community

Mayukha Karnam
News Editor

Humans of LHS, a public student-run Facebook page, has recently garnered much attention and support for capturing the individuality of the Lexington High School community.

The page, started by junior Amanda Lin in December, made its first post in March and has since amassed over 1,000 likes. Lin said she was inspired by the Humans of New York page as well as Humans of Newton North High School.

Tania Abedi, a junior, was the page's first photographer, followed by sophomores Chao Zheng Li and Anar Kansara. Junior Evan Simkowitz and senior Michelle Nizhnikov were added later, through applications.

Abedi said that the HONY page inspired her to begin portrait photography, a style that she continues to experiment with through HOLHS.

In the typical posting process, after a photographer has taken a picture, other photographers critique the photo on a private page and approve it to be posted on the public page. Photographers also interview the people they photograph, although subjects also have the opportunity to send in a quote later.

Lin said that they publish an average of two posts per day.

Abedi said, "I think it's a way to see that every person has their own story. Random people you pass in the hall — you don't know their actual story unless they open up ... no one is just 'boring.'"

While the page strives to document all the graduating seniors, it also features teachers and students from other grades.

Oftentimes, the photographers will approach someone spontaneously.

Lin said, "If there is someone who is interesting, we will go up to them."

Rina Farber-Mazor, a French teacher who has been photographed, said, "I thought this was a really nice opportunity, in a place that is really student-focused, to remind students of everyone's humanity ... I think sometimes as a teacher, you're seen as 'other,' but we're not."

Photographers, other students and teachers agree that the page helps build a sense of community and unity at LHS.

"I think that the portraits and the distribution of what are largely positive messages to our community is a real plus. I think it can be inspiring for a lot of people and I think that in general it's a really nice project," said Farber-Mazor.

Courtesy of Amanda Lin

Inspired by Humans of New York and Humans of Newton North, student photographers of Humans of LHS take photos of LHS students and teachers.

Advice for the future...

For rising sophomores:

First of all, congratulations: You survived your first year of high school! Now that you have completed the preparatory courses, it's time for the real deal. Expectations ramp up significantly, and it is easy to get wrapped up in the constant drive to achieve.

First, take a deep breath to clear your mind. School and Ivy League colleges are not everything. While juggling AP courses, music and varsity sports, don't forget to relax once in a while. Yes, it is critical to work hard and be focused, but it is equally important to enjoy yourself, spend time with friends and family and be happy.

However, if it really is your lifelong dream to get into Harvard University with a four-year scholarship and an acceptance letter from Obama himself, you need to plan. Plan your extracurricular activities, your scheduled courses and any goals you hope to meet. If you have a rough game plan in mind, it will take significant stress off your mind and give you a feeling of control and composure. Create a good balance between work and play and you'll be just fine.

— Anar Kansara
(Class of 2016)

For rising juniors:

Junior year. The big kahuna. The year you've all been waiting for — or, more likely, dreading. It's when academic demands, extracurricular commitments and college pressures climax all at once. Fortunately, there are a few things you can do to make 11th grade bearable — and even fun.

First, don't try to use your free blocks productively. By nature, frees are filled with distractions. Resign yourself to your desire to escape the stress swirling about you, and each free block will become an island of tranquility in a day rife with challenges.

Second, rather than spreading yourself thin, try to pick a few extracurricular activities that you truly enjoy. Use your after-school time to pursue a passion rather than fill out a college checklist.

And finally, get some sleep. As someone who often has to grab both eyelids and yank upward to seem even moderately awake, I can't emphasize the importance of sleep strongly enough.

Junior year, especially at this school, is a huge challenge. There's simply no denying it. But if you conserve your energy and do all you can to keep the year fun, you'll be able to keep the damage under control.

— Mark Rosenberg
(Class of 2015)

Rising seniors & college freshmen: see the back page!

CLASS OF 2014 SENIOR DESTINATIONS

Abbate, John	Regis University
Abid, Tanaz	Brandeis University
Adley, Rhett	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Akkurt, Naz	Georgia Institute of Technology
Alcock, Chloe	California College of the Arts
Alfonse, Justin	Wheaton College
Amirault, Michael	UMass Amherst
Amsel, Shelby	University of Delaware
Anand, Nihil	
Andersen, Nathan	Williams College
Andre, Samuel	UMass Boston
Appelman, Brendan	Santa Clara University
Appelman, Brian	University of Colorado Boulder
Arthur, Zhane	Babson University
Arumugam, Nila	Rhode Island School of Design
Atia, Zaki	University of St. Andrews
Backofen, Bobby	University of Rhode Island
Bacon, Sofia	UMass Amherst
Bajaj, Nikhil	Brown University
Ballo, Phillip	Gap Year
Banard, Ryan	Occidental College
Barsoum, Julia	George Washington University
Battite, Joslyn	Merrimack College
Beaulieu, Joshua	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Beaulieu, Robin	University of New Hampshire
Beers, Rachel	
Belmonte, Dominic	Loyola University Maryland
Belvin, Silas	Middlesex Community College
Benayad-Cherif, Dina	Case Western Reserve University
Benghiat, Abraham	Colgate University
Bennatan, Tamir	McGill University
Bentham, Oliver	University of Maryland
Bergh, Emma	Oberlin College
Berman, Anne	Hamilton College
Bertuccelli, Marco Antonio	University of Michigan
Bodden, Keith	
Boehm, Chloe	Colby College
Bonmassar, Caterina	Fordham University
Bowling, Peter	Tufts University
Brais, Hanako	Connecticut College
Brinton, Emma	College of Wooster
Bristow, Justin	
Brizard, Guivenson	Bridgewater State University
Brodner, Curtis	College of Charleston
Brosnan, Aaron	University of Vermont
Brown-Bass, Kinaya	North Carolina Central University
Brown, Garrett	Hendrix College
Bruce, Holden	Trinity College
Bujwid, Elizabeth	University of Connecticut
Burke, Brian	University of Connecticut
Burke, Matthew	Elon University
Bystricky, Filip	Brown University
Cagliero, Diana	Emory University
Cameron, Alison	Oberlin College
Campbell, Paige	Stonehill College
Canton, Aaron	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Caouette, Nicole	Dean College
Carabbio, Holly	Smith College
Caster, Caroline	Temple University
Chan, Alison	University of Vermont
Chanda, Anindita	Brandeis University
Chang, Albert	UMass Amherst
Charlton, Amanda	University of Maine Orono
Chen, Melanie	UC Davis
Chen, Vivien	Syracuse University
Cheng, Kevin	UC Berkeley
Cherepov, David	
Cheruku, Prasuna	Emerson College
Chin, Amanda	Brandeis University
Chin, Connor	Babson College
Chin, Samuel	Duke University
Chirn, Brian	Boston University
Cho, Carrissa	Suffolk University
Cho, Yun Ju	University of Richmond
Clough, Clara	James Madison University
Coen, Samantha	
Cohen, Bar	UMass Amherst
Connor, Sarah	Roger Williams University
Cooke, Justin	University of Pittsburgh
Coutts, Alexander	UMass Lowell
Crowe, Amelie	Framingham State University
Cuccinello, John	Middlesex Community College
Cunningham, Eva	University of New Hampshire
Curran, Christopher	Savannah School of Art and Design
Daglio Fine, Kira	Columbia University
Dahleh, Jumana	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Dardati, Alexandra	Wheaton College
Davidson, Nathan	University of Pittsburgh
Davis, Ian	Washington University in St. Louis
Davis, Lydia	University of British Columbia
de Haro, Camille	Suffolk University
Decker, Whitney	University of Delaware
Dharmaraj, Divya	Johns Hopkins University
Dion, Lucas	UMass Amherst
Diramio, Elena	Fisher College
Do, Hyunji	Carnegie Mellon University
Doh, Unsol	Cornell University
Douvas, James	St. John's University
Doxsey, Grace	University of Vermont
Doxsey, Martha	UMass Amherst
Duan, Hanson	Boston University
Dufault, Adam	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Ebihara, Tomohiro	University of Maine
Edelstein, Emily	Oberlin College
Edmonds, Matthew	Dickinson College
Elliott, Thomas	Gap Year/Harvard University
Espino, Marlon	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Ettinger, Sharon	Colgate University
Fabbo, Anthony	
Farris, Kendra	Champlain College
Feldman, Jacqueline	Washington University in St. Louis
Fernandes, Michael	Curry College
Ferrick, Anna	Lasell College
Fisher, Hana	Wheelock College
Fishman, David	University of Richmond
Fitzgerald, Fiona	UMass Lowell
Fitzgerald, Sean	Bentley University
Flynn, Nicholas	UMass Amherst
Foelix, Justin	Maine Maritime Academy
Foley, Mia	University of Scranton
Foley, Patrick	University of New Hampshire
Fonarev, Jamie	Tufts University
Fong, Caitlyn	Wheaton College
Fopiano, Sara	Elon University
Foreman-Kaye, Andrew	Bryant University
Foss, Katlyn	Salem State University
Fotheringham, Saraya	Middlesex Community College
Fox, Donald	Fairfield University
Foxlin, Xyla	Case Western Reserve University
Fraser, Katherine	Harvard University
Fusco, Emilia	UMass Amherst
Gabovitch, Evan	Curry College
Gallagher-Stack, Meaghan	UMass Lowell
Gambino, Valentina	Johnson & Wales University
Gambone, Brady	Gap Year
Gandelsman, Rome	
Garberg, Sarah	Lehigh University
Garmon, Joanna	Maryland Institute College of Art
Gerlovin, Kaia	University of New Hampshire
Giannakakis, James	
Gierkink, Addison	Brown University
Gilbert, Noah	Gap Year/University of Michigan
Goddard, Olivia	Miami University
Goldberg, Jamie	University of Vermont
Goldfinger, Eva	Colorado College
Goodwin, Kathryn	Endicott College
Gopalan, Aditya	MIT
Gorry-Hines, Fiona	New York University
Grant, Amari	
Greene, Emily	Quinnipiac University
Griffin, Mallory	University of Delaware
Grunfeld, Noam	Boston University
Gu, Xiebin Benjamin	Georgia Institute of Technology
Guarin, Justinne Renee	UMass Amherst
Gurvich, Lika	University of Vermont
Gusinov, Aaron	Bentley University
Halim, Christy	New York University
Han, Evaline	
Han, Wesley	Swarthmore College
Hancock, Sophia	Goucher College
Hanson, Erin	Williams College
Haque, Anisa	Brandeis University
Harari, Daniel	Syracuse University
Harisinghani, Ayesha	Washington University in St. Louis
Hauke, James	Gap Year
He, Matthew	Northeastern University
Herbert, Jordan	Union College
Herp, Audrey	
Herrera, David	Dartmouth College
Hersey, Dylan	San Diego State University
Heveran, Katherine	Michigan State University
Hewitt, Chloe	Mass College of Art and Design
Hines, Gregory	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Hobbs, Evangeline	Villanova University
Hom, Emily	Emmanuel College
Honda, Ryotaro	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Honohan, Emma	Purdue University
Horwitz, Reed	University of Michigan
Hsieh, Celina	Brown University
Huang, Jerry	UC Los Angeles
Huang, Wilson	UMass Amherst
Hurd, Audrey	Pratt Institute
Hussain, Iman	Mount Holyoke College
Hussain, Saif	Rollins College
Isaacs, Kira	Georgetown University
Isaacson, Arielle	Dartmouth College
Isaacson, Ethan	Dartmouth College
Isnor, Emily	Middlesex Community College
Jaillet, Clovis	Skidmore College
James, Nicholas	Harvard University
Jandl, Jillian	Syracuse University
Jang, Hyeyeong	MCPHS
Jenness, Benjamin	UMass Lowell
Jin, Gina	UC Los Angeles
Johnson, Daniel	Middlesex Community College
Joseph, Arnold	Northeastern University
Kaftan-Luckerman, Emma	Lewis & Clark College
Kane, Elizabeth	UMass Amherst
Katz, Hebrom	
Katzelnik, Michelle	UMass Amherst
Kazi, Saadman	U.S. Marines
Khachatourian, Ani	Regis University
Khan, Mohammed	UMass Amherst
Khanna, Hargun	UMass Amherst
Khudari, Melaina	Gap Year/Union College
Kilaru, Pruthvi	Syracuse University
Kim, Christine	Brandeis University
Kim, Jae-Joon	UC Berkeley
Kim, Nicholas	Trinity College
Kim, Rachel	University of Connecticut
Kim, Yea Han	Boston University
Kim, Yoonji	
Kimball, William	University of Connecticut
Kirby, David	Roger Williams University
Kiss, Panna	Mass College of Art and Design
Kleppner, Matthew	Wesleyan University
Kling, Rachel	McDaniel College
Klopper, Aron	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Kluchman, Collin	Colorado College
Kong, Yoon hye	New York University
Koser, Jacquelyn	Endicott College
Koso, Eliza	St. Lawrence University
Koundinya, Amit	Case Western Reserve University
Krasinski, Justin	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Krishnan, Arjun	University of Michigan
Kullberg, Alyssa	Colby College
Kung, Albert	Cornell University
Kuo, Claire	UMass Boston
Kurzweg, Safiya	Gap Year
Kuszmaul, William	Stanford University
Kwon, Yunha	Smith College
Laats, Erik	UC Davis
Lakin, Kasey	Northeastern University
Lamoretti, Amanda	Mass College of Art and Design
Lamoretti, Ashley	Curry College
Landers, Nora	UMass Amherst
Lavallee, Muriel	Middlebury College
Lavelle, Brianna	Tufts University
Laxague, Pearl	Gap Year
Leach, Cristine	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Lee, Christopher	Harvard University
Lee, Chung Hwa	George Washington University
Lee, Erin	Washington University in St. Louis
Lee, Lilian	Boston University
Lee, Priscilla	UMass Amherst
Lee, Sanghun	Washington University in St. Louis

The Musket is proud to present Senior Destinations, our annual compilation of the various plans for the graduating Class of 2014. This information has been compiled to the best of The

Lee, Vivian	New York University
Lehmann, Sarah	Boston University
Lehn, Samuel	Vassar College
Leichtman, Julianna	Vassar College
Lenrow, Karina	Dean College
Lepore, Andrew	Cornell University
Lesure, Charlotte	McGill University
Levine, Emma	Lake Forest College
Levine, Lauren	Cornell University
Lewis, Emmanuel	U.S. Marines/Berklee College of Music
Li, Allen	UMass Amherst
Li, Brent	Boston College
Li, Kay	Northeastern University
Lin, Jessica	
Lloyd, Jeffrey	Champlain College
Loati, Hannah	Stonehill College
Lockshin, Elana	Boston University
Logan, Brittany	Georgetown University
Louis, Lily Noor	
Lowry, Zachary	Brown University
Lu, Xinyu	Gap Year
Lu, Xuhe	Babson College
Lundahl, Lauren	Lehigh University
Lung, Timothy	Washington University in St. Louis
Lyttle, Harry	Middlesex Community College
Ma, Yichuan	Tufts University
Macdonald, Ophelia	University of Vermont
Magid, Jamie	Lesley University
Maher, Jennifer	
Mahoney, John	Endicott College
Mahrokhian, Shant	Tufts University
Marge, Thomas	Johns Hopkins University
Martel, Alana	
Massie, Cameron	Work
Matejcik, Briana	University of Maine
Mathis, Darius	Dean College
Matteson, Emma	Syracuse University
McCartin, Katherine	Boston College
McClain, Ellis	
Mccullough, Jack	Saint Michael's College
McCullough, Nelson	Lakes Region Community College
McDaniel, Alex	Boston University
McDevitt, Megan	Emmanuel College
McKenna, Theodore	Hamilton College
McLaughlin, James	High Point University
McWeeney, Michael	Gap Year
Medeiros, Rachel	University of Miami
Medina, Gabriel	
Mehra, Isha	Carnegie Mellon University
Mehta, Niyati	Hamilton College
Mei, Kristen	University of Toronto
Meister, David	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Melkonian, Tania	Suffolk University
Michon, Casey	Tulane University
Mincy, Nathaniel	Rochester Institute of Technology
Miranda Castaneda, Mariana	Gap Year
Mirani, Leah	Skidmore College
Mock, Benjamin	Georgia Institute of Technology
Moon, Sharon	School of Visual Arts
Mooney, Marissa	Syracuse University
Moresco, Emerald	
Morrill, Diana	Tufts University
Morrison, Julia	Saint Michael's College
Morse, Katherine	University of Delaware
Moschella, Alexander	UMass Amherst
Muir, Riley	Washington University in St. Louis
Mukamal, Alexander	Yale University
Mumford, Jordan	Universal Technical Institute
Munn, Elijah	Boston University
Murphy, Daniel	Bates College
Muter, Henry	Middlebury College
Nardone, Elizabeth	Syracuse University
Ng, Benjamin	Purdue University
Nichols, Harry	Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Nies Greeley, Sarah	Gap Year
Nilsson, Frida	McGill University
Nizhnikov, Michelle	Suffolk University
O'Neil, Hugh	Phillips Exeter Academy
O'Neil, Sean	UMass Amherst
Orcutt, Madeline	Cornell University
Oshiro-Leavitt, Cole	Gap Year/Clarkson University
Pachter, Joshua	University of Rochester
Pai, Hao-Yuan	New York University
Palafox, David	
Papp, David	Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering
Park, Ju Yeon	Wellesley College
Partyka, Samuel	
Patel, Shashwat	UMass Amherst
Patwari, Ishaan	University of Connecticut
Pawelka, Gabriela	Gap Year
Pazhanisamy, Kavitha	University of Pittsburgh
Penniman, Ali	
Perry, Christopher	Carnegie Mellon University
Pfrommer, Kurt	Williams College
Phelan, Shawn	University of Connecticut
Phene, Sharvaj	Indiana University Bloomington
Pietri, Alexa	Georgia Institute of Technology
Pishev, Christopher	UNC Greensboro
Prasad, Rohil	Harvard University
Prescilla, Andrew	Middlesex Community College
Previte, Mia	Suffolk University
Rai, Turab	UMass Amherst
Ransohoff, Jaime	Colgate University
Razavi, Seyedeh Arta	UMass Amherst
Ren, Alice	University of Pennsylvania
Rich, Nina	
Riselli, Andrew	MCPHS
Roberts, Abria	Fitchburg State University
Robinson, Joshua	UMass Boston
Rodman, Anna	Mass College of Art and Design
Rodrigues, Mitchell	
Rogers, Charles	University of Maryland
Rourke, Joshua	Hamilton College
Roychowdhury, Avik	Franklin & Marshall College
Royer, Emily	University of Cincinnati
Rubenstein, Simon	New York University
Ruocco, Christopher	Wheaton College
Rush, Chandler	
Ruxin, Aliana	Gap Year/University of Michigan
Sacco, Julia	Middlesex Community College
Sandor, Marcell	Colgate University
Sarmiento, Sabrina Marie	Boston College
Savage, Michael	Middlesex Community College
Savitz, Hannah	Northwestern University
Schneider, Hope	Wellesley College
Scott, Benjamin	Southern New Hampshire University
Segovia, Ashley	
Selitsky, Elana	Boston College
Seong, David	Harvard University
Shahsavari Alavijeh, Shahin	UMass Amherst
Shapiro, Olivia	University of Michigan
Shenoy, Naman	UMass Amherst
Sherman, August	Connecticut College
Shi, Muyang	University College London
Shiple, Caleb	University of Michigan
Shiue, Vincent	University of Connecticut
Sifre, Erin	Tufts University
Silberman, Sloan	Bard College
Sillari, Catherine	Tufts University
Sim, Christine	New York University
Simkovits, Mathew	Gap Year/Washington University in St. Louis
Singh, Liam	
Slane, Nolan	UMass Lowell
Smith, Ashley	Hofstra University
Smith, Madison	Northeastern University
Snellings, Frances	Colorado College
Song, Elizabeth	New York University
Song, Kevin	Carnegie Mellon University
Songtachalert, Tanya	Connecticut College
South, Elaina	University of Connecticut
Steigerwald Schnall, Julia	Harvard University
Straaton, Phoebe	American University of Paris
Streeter, Nathaniel	California College of the Arts
Strod, Maya	Washington University in St. Louis
Stroll, Stephanie	Middlesex Community College
Su, Peng	Gap Year
Sun, Julia	Cornell University
Sundaram, Ranjana	Curry College
Super, Elana	University of Nottingham
Sutton, Macallan	Gap Year
Swack, Rachel	Oberlin College
Tamaro, Mia	Sacred Heart University
Tambone, Alexandria	University of New Hampshire
Tambone, Ted	Syracuse University
Tan, Alice	Cornell University
Tan, Edwin	University of Maryland
Tan, Rae Yen	Emerson College
Tan, Rico	
Tandara Kuhns, Zachary	UMass Amherst
Tao, Peter	UMass Amherst
Taudvin, Bryn	College of Charleston
Taudvin, Molly	University of South Carolina
Tiano, Marina	Middlesex Community College
Tomasian, Aline	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Torikian, Aren	Tufts University
Trombley, Elizabeth	Marymount Manhattan College
Tsai, Angel Lina	University of Michigan
Tsang, Alyssa	Tulane University
Tso, Benjamin	Princeton University
Tsvetkova, Natalie	Brown University
Turner, Anna	Muhlenberg College
Vaughan, Emma	UMass Amherst
Vernet, Alexandra	Lasell College
Virk, Nishan	UMass Amherst
Vojvodich, Callista	Miami University
Vyas, Romir	UMass Amherst
Waite, Briony	University of Maryland
Wang, Lilian	Brandeis University
Wang, Michael	Boston University
Warner, Jenise	UMass Amherst
Watt, Jonah	Bowdoin College
Weiler, Bryn	Oberlin College
West, Eli	Gap Year/Tufts University
White, Brian	Columbia University
White, David	Tufts University
Whitman, Sydney	Winthrop University
Williams, Audrey	Trinity College Dublin
Williams, Paul	Gordon College
Wilner, Joshua	University of Michigan
Wilson, Andrew	Dean College
Winters, Bess	Mount Ida College
Wood, Thomas	Vanderbilt University
Woods, Cailyn	University of New Hampshire
Wright, Olivia	UMass Amherst
Wu, Bryan	University of Connecticut
Wu, Ethan	UC Irvine
Xie, Kevin	Harvard University
Xu, Eric	Duke University
Xu, Michael	UMass Amherst
Yang, Dong Hee	
Yates, Caroline	Bentley University
Ye, Changtian	Mount Holyoke College
Yin, Daniel	Georgia Institute of Technology
You, Keya	New York University
Yuan, David	Carnegie Mellon University
Yun, Brian	Army Reserves/University of Maine
Zaaf, Amile	
Zagarella, Katie	
Zhang, Sarah	Wellesley College
Zhang, Sheryl	UC Berkeley
Zhao, Sophie	Carnegie Mellon University
Zhu, Jessica	Harvard University
Zola, Zachary	University of Michigan
Zuccaro, Daniel	Westfield State University

Class of 2014
Top 12 Destinations

UMass Amherst	31
Gap Year	19
Middlesex Community College	11
Boston University	10
Tufts University	10
University of Michigan	10
Harvard University	9
New York University	9
University of Connecticut	9
Washington University in St. Louis	9
Syracuse University	8
Cornell University	7

Musket's ability, and we apologize for any inaccuracies. This list may not be reproduced without written permission. Congratulations to all the seniors of the Class of 2014 from The Musket!

Editorial

Don't let college singularly define you

There is a fantastic TED Talk in which author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie discusses the danger of "the single story": that when we neglect to consider the many facets of a person, place or idea, we fall prey to stereotypes, constructing one-dimensional portraits of the world around us.

Of the many stories that make up the experience at Lexington High School, there is one that is particularly prevalent: the college story. Though LHS students may believe otherwise, college is not the be-all and end-all. Ivy Day is not Judgment Day. Yet so many seniors define themselves by a single story: college.

For many students, the LHS experience turns into a race to become that well-rounded, captain-of-the-soccer-team, editor-in-chief, piano-playing-prodigy with a 4.0 GPA and 2400 SAT score. Hit the target and you're destined for Harvard; miss, and you'll be slowly obscured by mediocrity.

And so four years of our lives are spent in a state of nerve-wracking anticipation, waiting for that day in late March when we find out where we'll spend the next four years of our lives. But is that acceptance letter worth our emotional health? What are we willing to sacrifice to see that one word: "congratulations"? It's that one week in March that many of us end up feeling defined by, that quantifies the experiences throughout high school. It seems to be all that matters.

In theory, we are above the pettiness of the single story. But be honest: what were you thinking as you opened this issue of The Musket and cast your eyes over the columns of names? What went through your mind as you glanced at the future state-school-goer, listed next to the future Ivy League student?

There's a simple question that no one seems to ask: what is so good about going to an Ivy? Are Ivy League students better human beings than state school students? Are they necessarily smarter or more creative? Attending a "good" school doesn't guarantee success; your motivation and hard work do.

There is no definition of what makes a "good education" or a "smart person"; there are only our perceptions and prejudices. And LHS students have seemingly decided to rank each other on arbitrary definitions of "intelligence" and "worthiness."

Here's a radical idea: do things for yourself. Do things because you want to, not because you think you should. The college story is a legitimate story, but it is one of thousands you will write in your lifetime, and each is equally beautiful and valuable.

So when you're reading this issue of The Musket, when you're running your eyes over each name in each column, imagine the millions of snippets of stories that are unaccounted for, all spiraling outwards in infinite directions. The people around us aren't the brand names or mascots seen on the surface. They are all the unwritten text that lies below.

THANK YOU

to our generous donors for supporting the Musket. We couldn't do it without you!

- **Jeanne Lin**
- **Bhavani Tirupati**
- **Lorraine Bennett**

Note: We apologize if you donated and your name is not on our list. Please send an email to musketnews@gmail.com

For rising seniors:

Well, here it is: The final year of your high school career has arrived. As busy as you may get, here are a few tips to help you get through the year successfully and happily.

Scheduling: Despite the façade of relation that seems to cover senior year, the first half is unfortunately going to be a bit rough. With college visits and application deadlines on deck, setting goals and keeping a schedule is key.

Expect the unexpected: Ideally, we would simply not expect anything. That way, it would be easy to accept those infamous rejection letters. But don't forget that these letters aren't a testament to who you are or who you'll be. If you have the confidence to pursue your dreams, you will succeed no matter where you go.

Enjoy: Although it probably won't hit you at first, one day you'll look at the senior countdown and wonder where all those days went. We often take too little time to cherish the people and moments of these four years. The biggest piece of advice I could ever give you is to simply enjoy.

With that, best of luck during your senior year!

— Ayesha Harisinghani (Class of 2014)

Angel & Anna

Angel starts working on her Final Projects the day they are assigned.
Anna procrastinates watching videos on Youtube.
Angel budgets her time so she can get a full night's rest.
Anna hasn't slept in over seventy-two hours.
Angel finishes a painting for Mother's day a week in advance.
Anna scribbles down the newspaper comic a day after the final deadline and prays that they will still accept it.
Angel graduates ready for college and to become a healthy contributing member of Society.
Anna becomes a vagrant

Comic by Anna Rodman

For rising college freshmen:

As many of you close the deal on college choices, you're probably feeling a mixture of excitement, relief, and maybe even dread for what to expect of the next year, or four, of college. But never fear. Here are a few tips I learned from freshman year.

1. **DO** a pre-orientation program, if your school offers any. It's the best way to mentally and socially prepare yourself, and you might even meet your best friend while you're at it (as I did).

2. **DO** take advantage of the first two weeks. Be friendly and open, because this is your greatest opportunity to meet as many different people as possible before social groups start to separate. Strike up conversations before class, at activities and during meals, because you never know whom you'll hit it off with.

3. **DO** explore new extracurriculars, in addition to old ones, because you'll either discover or reaffirm your passions. As a dancer, I'd never done a sport until I tried crew at the beginning of the year. Though I ultimately quit, the experience was valuable because it made me realize I could never give up dance.

4. **DON'T** forget to do laundry, or you will run out of socks, or underwear, or both. The "freshman 15" is real, so exercise, but don't skip meals. Sleep. Plan ahead. College will be the first time you have so much unregimented time on your hands, which means more freedom but also the sole responsibility for taking care of yourself. So have fun, and make your own choices.

With these thoughts in mind, good luck and congratulations, class of 2014! It only gets better from here.

— Catherine Qin (Harvard University, Class of 2017)

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